

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Carol C. Lam***

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***For Immediate Release***

**NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - February 13, 2007**

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that Cameron Campbell, an attorney based in La Jolla, California, pleaded guilty today to federal conspiracy and wire fraud charges in federal court in San Diego before United States District Court Judge Barry Ted Moskowitz.

According to court records, Campbell and his coconspirators, Joseph Wayne McCool and Donald John Manning, was charged with operating "The Brixon Group Ltd." ("Brixon"), a company which fraudulently solicited millions of dollars from members of the public, supposedly for participation in high-yield investment programs. Campbell and his coconspirators allegedly induced people to invest their retirement accounts and other funds in Brixon by falsely representing that the investments would generate returns of 10 percent per month, that the State Bar of California insured the investors' principal, and that McCool was a banking expert who, prior to working with Brixon, had successfully managed a large private trust in Europe.

As part of his guilty plea, Campbell admitted that he and his coconspirators, in fact, intentionally concealed from investors the fact that most of the money invested in Brixon would not be placed into investments, and that new funds received from investors would be used to make payments to earlier investors. Campbell also admitted that he intentionally concealed from investors the fact that, just prior to operating Brixon, McCool had served more than two years in federal prison for conspiracy to commit wire fraud and conspiracy to traffic in counterfeit goods. When Brixon stopped making payments to investors, Campbell falsely told investors that their funds were tied up in Europe due to the United States Patriot Act and a variety of other fictitious banking problems. Campbell further admitted that, through the Brixon scheme, he and his coconspirators diverted hundreds of thousands of dollars of investors' money for their own use and caused investors to lose between \$2.5 million and \$7 million.

Law enforcement continues to seek the public's assistance in locating both Joseph Wayne McCool and Donald John Manning, whose whereabouts are currently unknown.

United States Attorney Lam said, "Investors should beware of promises of exceptionally high, 'guaranteed' returns over short periods of time that look too good to be true, because they almost certainly are."

Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent in Charge Daniel Dzwilewski said, "The FBI is committed to ferreting out investor scams such as this one, and will continue to aggressively investigate all forms of white collar crime in San Diego."

Both the United States Attorney's Office and the FBI acknowledge the assistance of the Arizona Corporation Commission in the investigation.

Sentencing for Campbell is scheduled before Judge Moskowitz on July 10, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. in federal court in San Diego.

**DEFENDANT**

**Case No. 06-CR-1021-BTM**

Cameron Campbell

## **SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

One Count -- Title 18, United States Code, Section 371 - Conspiracy to Commit Offenses Against the U.S.

Maximum penalties: 5 years in prison, \$250,000 fine, and restitution.

One Count -- Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343 - Wire Fraud

Maximum penalties: 5 years in prison, \$250,000 fine, and restitution.

## **PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Arizona Corporation Commission